(d) whether any action has been taken by Government on the recommendations of the Committee ?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI PABAN SINGH GHATOWAR) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) to (d) Do not arise.

Bonded Labourers in India

59. SHRIMATI KAMLA SINHA : Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that as many as 15 million people, including five million children work as bonded labourers in India;

(b) if so, what are the details thereof; and

(c) if not, what are the reasons that International Labour Organisation's figure is in sharp contrast to the Government's figure ?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI PABAN SINGH GHATOWAR : (a) and (b) According to official figures furnished by the State Governments 2,51,069 bonded labourers have been identified.

(c) The World Labour Report 1993 mentions that "the ILO Committee of Experts noted in 1991 estimates by Anti-slavery International that 5 million adults and 10 million children were bonded". Thus the figures quoted in the Report are the estimates of a private body and not necessarily that of the International Labour Organisation.

Ratification ILO Convention on Occupational Safety

60. MISS SAROJ KHAPARDE : Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government propose to ratify the ILO Convention on Occupational Safety in work environment and health of workers;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, what are the reasons therefor ?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI PABAN SINGH GHATOWAR) : (a) to (c) ILO Convention No. 155 concerning Occupational Safety, Health and Working Environment, which was adopted in 1981, applies to all branches of economic activity and to all workers with the possibility of excluding certain activities like maritime shipping or fishing. Although India has a large body of legislation on occupational safety and health, the main difficulty in the way of ratification has been the lack of statutory cover to economic activities in the unorganised sector such as agriculture, building and construction.

ILO Assistance to Eliminate Child Labour

61. SHRI VIREN J. SHAH : Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that the International Labour Organisation has extended a $ 2.5 million assistance this year to work towards eliminating child labour problem from India;

(b) if so, what are the details in this regard;

(c) what is the manner in which Government propose to allot the funds to Government and Non-Government agencies involved in child labour problems; and

(d) what are the details of their specific projects aimed at eliminating child labour, protecting the rights of working children, improving their working conditions, and educating them ?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI PABAN SINGH GHATOWAR) : (a) and (b) The Programme Steering Committee of ILO has earmarked US $ 2.25 million (equivalent to Rs. 6.97 crores approx.) for the International Programme on the Elimination of